All of Scripture is given by divine inspiration and is given for our instruction and training into conformity with God's will (2Tim.3:16-17); therefore, the presentation in the chapters of the Book of Daniel is much more than a recounting of history. It is accurate history, in spite of the general concept of many that it contains improbable history, but its more important purpose is to reveal patterns in which God has chosen to operate and to control in that day - and in our day, for God is the same yesterday, today, and always. The acting out of these living dramas on the stage of history was accomplished for our benefit (IPet.1:12-13), although most of the actors did not realize what was being accomplished through them for future generations.

## THE TIMES OF THE NATIONS
## -Dan. 2-

This revelation of God was first given to the king of Babylon who was a servant of God (Jer.25:9), but who was not an Israelite, nor was he a faithful servant. The dream was about things that would come to pass, about the events at the end of the Ages and about the developments that would lead up to these events (Dan.2:28-29). The literal period of the dream's application extends from Nebuchadnezzar's time (:38) <u>in continuity</u> through the time of Christ's 2nd coming, and into His victory over the powers of the world systems, when He will establish a great Kingdom which will cover all the earth and which will never be destroyed (:44). The whole image pictures the development and consummation of the ages of man's accomplishment in building his own world into our unstable society of 'clay and iron', outside of God's counsel, into a society which is to be crushed into worthless 'chaff' and utterly blown away (:35). When this crushing is completed, only Christians, or predominantly Christians, will remain alive on earth (Isa.13:9, Acts 3:23) and they then become the 'seed' for re-populating the nations on earth during the millenial Kingdom Age.

In the interpretation of the dream given to Daniel, the Babylonian empire was identified as the uppermost or first part of the image, that which began the fulfillment of the time sequencing of the world empires pictured. From other portions of the Book of Daniel and from history, we know that the silver empire following the Babylonian rule was that of Medo-Persia (Dan.8:20), and then came the Grecian empire (Dan.8:21). The 4th empire was that of Rome, which was contemporary with the time of Christ's 1st coming, but which was to extend through its heirs (two legs) into the end of our Age, to then be characterized by the symbolism of iron and clay mingled. Only at the end of the Age in which we live today will this 4th empire be overcome and disappear. The 4th empire is not pictured here as going out of existance and then reappearing at some later date, nor as being succeeded by any other world empire since the days when Rome was the military master of the world around the Mediterranean. Historically and prophetically,

the Roman Empire of 'iron' has been extended into our time through the Holy Roman Empire and its 'daughters', covering a far greater portion of the earth than formerly. True, its character of military accomplishment has in some measure been replaced by other attributes so far, but nonetheless the same 4th empire is shown as being carried on, although we see it now in a somewhat different form.

Each of the historical four empires was said to rule over the whole earth and this was true in the sense that each dominated in the known world, although there were many peoples not under their direct control. Likewise at the end of our Age, when the 4th empire is becoming dominant in the world, there will be many peoples or nations not an integral part of the 'iron' empire; however, in our time all the peoples will be affected by the dominance of the 'iron' empire, for the iron is mixed with the clay - mixed in with the seed of men - and the 'clay' will know of the presence of the 'iron', even if there is an unwillingness to capitulate or submit to the philosophy and governmental pattern of the 'iron' empire.

The image sequence is concluded by the picturing of the feet of the 'iron' empire as the consummating phase of its existance. It is still the 'iron' empire, and within its dominion are pictured 10 toes (rulers and nations), 5 on one leg and 5 on the other leg. As pictured by the image, the pagan Roman Empire divided about 44 BC and later the Holy Roman Empire also became divided, in effect extending the 'iron legs' of the image as western and eastern portions, though both legs are still the same 4th empire of 'iron'. The area of the world under the influence of the two legs of the image was thus expanded far beyond that controlled by military Rome. And then under the 'daughters' of the Holy Roman Empire, those born in the Reformation movement, the area controlled by the 4th empire of 'iron' extended even farther out through the Church-State alliances, and it is from those portions of the world which have come under the influence and extended domination of the 'iron' empire that the 5 rulers in nations of the western leg extension and the 5 rulers in nations of the eastern leg extension will soon emerge to become recognized as the <u>10</u> toes (10 is the number of the gentiles, which will include both nominally Christian nations and Moslem nations, for Moslem nations too have and will come under the influence and dominion of the eastern leg).

However, the end-of-the-Age manifestation of the 'iron' empire will not be limited to a 10 nation confederation. In the Book of Revelation this same 'iron' empire is described as a 'sea-beast' empire in the end time (Rev.13:1-3) which basically has 7 heads (rulers and nations) and also 10 horns (rulers and their nations), but there is also a 'land-beast' empire which is secretly subordinate to the iron or sea-beast empire and which contains, among other nations, the same 7 heads and 10 horns (Rev.13:11-12, 17:3, 11-13). It is in the time of both the 7 heads and 10 horns that the power and authority of Jesus Christ (Dan.2:45, Mk.12:10, IPet.2:4-6) will fall upon all the world systems which man has developed (in an inadvertent partnership with Satan's hosts)

by the agency of a consummating test of world power which other Scripture symbolically describes as the Battle of Armageddon (Rev. 19:15-19, 16:16-17).

The metals symbolically pictured in Nebuchadnezzar's dream can also be seen as types of the earthly and Satanic counterparts of God's symbols for His own work. Gold is a type for the workings in the spirit world and the impartations from it, and denotes spiritual wealth as well as material wealth. Satan had this spiritual wealth from God initially when he was still in God's heaven (Ezek.28:13-15), but in God's plan this 'gold' must be refined and tested (Rev.3:18) before being qualified for His service. Silver indicates less spiritual wealth and pictures a need for God's work of redemption. It is a symbol of God's power to provide redemption, which the world under Satan needed after he disqualified himself for remaining in God's heaven and partaking of refined gold (Ezek.28:16). Brass indicates less spiritual wealth than silver and is used as a type for man's knowledge and philosophy of earthly things (especially that accumulated in the past century), which Satan promotes for rebellion against God. Refined brass or bronze refers to God's knowledge and wisdom (Rev.1:15) which every disciple is to have for cooperating with God (Jas. 1:4-5). The iron typifies an emphasis upon materialism and upon the use of raw power and authority, carnal, ruthless and crushing, as is now so especially evident among the God-rejecting countries of communism. But there is also a refined iron used in Scripture to symbolize God's power to rule in righteousness and love (Rev. 2:26-27). Clay is more earthly than iron, more of man, and indicates the advance of human knowledge in humanism, self-attainment and in the elevation of man through science, technology and learning, - developed without reference to God and developed to replace Him. However, these clay attributes do not mix well with an 'iron' environment of brutal power, so dictatorial rule becomes necessary to regulate those of clay as well as those of iron. But clay also represents weakness which <u>may</u> be presented to the Lord for His action on it, by which He transmutes it into the pattern of Himself (Ro.12:2, 2Cor.3:18). In addition, we see the elements of the iron mingling with the elements of the clay. The word for mingling also bears the meaning of trade or commerce. See the expansion today of trade between the God-rejecting empire of communism and the other countries outside!

About 50 years after Nebuchadnezzar's world power dream, Daniel also had a dream on the same subject but with different symbolizm - that of animals instead of metals. Daniel's dream likewise pictured the empires of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and then Rome with its extension through the time of Christ's 2nd coming. Here Daniel is a representative of the Jewish people and the vision relates to the world empires which become rulers and oppressors of Daniel's people. He first sees the 4 'winds' of the heavens, or spirits (same word as wind) of the atmosphere, stirring up the great 'sea' of the nations (Rev.17:15) with political and social agitations (Dan.7:2). Then 4 animal symbols rise successively out of the sea

of nations (Dan.7:3). The first was like a lion (the Babylonian empire) which initially had God's protective enabling (eagle's wings - Dan.7:3-4, Rev.12:14), but these protecting wings were afterward removed. Then Daniel saw that the lion animal took on the form of a man and was given a man's heart; at a later time, a ruler of that beast power was to become as a man, but without the wings of protection. The symbol of the lion corresponds to the head of gold in Nebuchadnezzar's dream. Then a second animal symbol came into view, like a bear with one shoulder higher than the other (the Medo-Persian empire in which Persia was dominant), and pushed its dominion out toward the west, north and south, - 3 ribs in its mouth (Dan.7:5, 8:4, 20), to assimilate many peoples. The bear symbol corresponds to the shoulders of silver in Dan.2. After this Daniel saw an animal like a leopard (the Grecian empire under Alexander the Great) with 4 wings of a bird (not an eagle) and 4 heads (Alexander's successors - Dan.7:6, 8:8, 21-22). The leopard was pictured as wing-covered, but not by God's protection, for the leopard ruler was to be exceedingly self-centered (Dan.8:8). The leopard symbol corresponds to the thighs of brass or bronze in Dan.2. After this a different animal symbol was raised up, different from all the others, terrible, dreadful, powerful and very strong (the Roman empire and its heirs in the east and the west). It had great iron teeth with which to devour and it crushed and trampled with its feet what it did not devour. It had 10 horns (symbols of 10 rulers) and Daniel saw another horn (ruler), a little one initially, come up from among the 10, overcoming 3 of them and becoming like a man (Dan.7:8). It is the same as Dan.8 horn, coming out of Caspian area of Russia. This little horn will come from one of the four portions of what was Alexander's empire and his power will be great, but not by his own power (Dan.8:22-25). He will honor and submit to the god of fortresses - Lucifer (Dan.11:37). Though he is then like a man, he will magnify himself, with Satan's power against the Prince of the host (Jesus Christ), take away a 'daily' of some sort from Him and cast down and profane God's sanctuary, - a portion of the Body of Christ and its facilities in our time (Dan.8:10-11). The symbol of the dreadful beast corresponds to the iron legs and the feet of Nebuchadnezzar's dream image (the present-day heirs of the east and west parts of the Roman empire), and the 10 horns correspond to the 10 toes on the feet of the image, 5 in the western portion and 5 in the eastern portion. The 'other horn' does not have a corresponding symbol in Nebuchadnezzar's dream image, but when the other horn comes into his power, he will oppose God, will wear down the Body of Christ, will try to change times (probably customs) and the law (God's law for His saints), and he will have an opportunity to work at these things during a period of 3-1/2 years (Dan.7:24-25).

As in Dan.2, this dream given to Daniel has the primary application to the Babylonian, Medo-Persian, Grecian and Roman (plus its extension) empires which oppress God's people, but we also may see in this a picture of Satan's step-by-step coming closer to losing his own empire, which is held in stewardship. He is the unseen, hidden ruler behind the successive empires in

the world order. His first phase was <u>like</u> a lion, like God in many respects (Ezek.28:12-15, Rev.5:5), and with eagle's wings which God provides (Rev. 12:14). This prophecy in Dan.7: 4, also reveals he will later have a human body by taking it for his use and become as man (Isa.14:16, Ezek.28:2, 9). The next phase is symbolized as a bear which has lesser status than a lion and this phase features the devouring of much flesh (Isa.14:5-6, 12, 17). Some of the power and ruling attributes of the lion phase remain however, for it is written that the devil still roams around <u>like</u> a lion.....seeking someone to devour (IPet.5:8). Then there is the phase of the leopard with wings, picturing the rapid movement into knowledge and philosophy independently of God (usually associated with the Grecian development in the age of its glory). The intellectual attainment is viewed as security (wings) in the four quarters of the world order under Satan's temporary stewardship (Dan.12:4). Then there is the development into a phase featuring the application of brutal, ruthless power and the exercise of authority to crush and trample.

In some measure, this brutality was seen in the early Roman Empire, but in greater measure it has been seen more recently in the rule of Mussolini, Stalin and Hitler, and it will be seen in even a much greater measure when Satan has established himself in a human body (the imitation of what God did in Jesus) as the 'seen' ruler of a world confederation of communism which to an awesome degree will affect all nations on this planet. Satan-incarnate's power and might are based on a foundation of the materialism of man's knowledge built up through technical and scientific advances (feet with brass nails) and exercised in a God-rejecting philosophy of government.

In this interpretation of his vision, Daniel was then given more information about this 4th beast empire. The 4th empire is different than its predecessors and Daniel could only describe it as dreadful. In about 96AD, John saw the same empire in symbolism and described it as part lion, part bear, and part leopard (Rev.13:1-2), one to which Satan gives all his power. The 10 rulers of the Great Tribulation period are to rise out of the geographical area and its extensions that has been under the control of the 4th beast empire and from among them an 11th ruler will come up. The 11th ruler will come later in time than the 10 previous rulers, he will be different from them, and he will overcome and subdue 3 of the 10, though the 10 continue to the end of the Age. This is the 'horn' which shall become like a man (Dan.7:8), Satan incarnated in the human body of a man already in ruling position, and he will match himself against God and against His Body of Christ during a period of 3-1/2 years to wear out the saints. He will seek to change times (probably customs such as holy days and feasts) and the law, but in the contest his dominion will be gradually taken away during the 3-1/2 years, and at the end of the period it will be suddenly destroyed (the outcome of the Battle of Armageddon). The period of 3-1/2 years is that which is called the Great Tribulation (Rev.11:2, 12:6,

13:5, Matt.24:15, 21, Dan.12:1). After the Tribulation, Jesus Christ will begin to establish an 'everlasting' Kingdom for the saints who remain on earth. Almost no persons who have not accepted Jesus will live beyond the sudden destruction (Isa.13:9). It will be the saints who will possess the surviving Kingdom (Dan.7:18, 22, Rev.12:5).

THE COVENANTS WITH ISREAL

It is taught that the 70th week of Daniel 9 is separated from the other 69 by a gap of 2000 years. Is it? Or is this a product of man's interpretation of what 'should have been' in God's mind?

God chose a people in the Old Testament times to be a key to open up and show what He would do on earth. These people were chosen, not because they were better than others, but because God wished their lives to show a pattern of His entire plan through what He would cause to happen to them. First He chose a man, and through that man He fathered a nation. God told Abram, that man of His choosing, to look at the stars; if he could number them, so he would know that progeny or seed which would come from him (Gen.15:5). God also told Abram that his seed would be as the dust of the earth (Gen.13:16). Through these two promises we may understand that the seed of Abraham was to be two-fold, - a physical seed or offspring and a spiritual seed, the physical seed being typified by the dust of the earth and the spiritual seed on earth by the stars of heaven. They who began as the physical seed were to mature into the spiritual seed, but they have not -- yet.

The physical seed came first, being known as the nation of Israel, through Abraham's grandson, Jacob, who fathered the 12 patriarchs who then in turn became the heads and progenitors of the 12 tribes of Israel. These 12 tribes constituted that nation of prophets and priests through whom God revealed Himself and to whom He chose to make known His law. The complete history of the nation of Israel portrays, through living drama, the entirety of God's plan and purpose for the human race. The study of the sacred history from the time of Abram on, reveals numerous types and patterns depicting God's plan of the ages, as well as the nature of His dealings with human beings to bring them to Him and into the stream of His divine purpose for them.

God made certain promises to the nation of Israel in the form of covenants or agreements, and since these promises were contingent upon obedience, God was in no way obligated to keep them when the nation defaulted. But the covenant made with Abram was different, for God swore by Himself that He would fulfill what He had spoken to Abram, because Abram believed God's promises and took action upon them, walking before Him with a perfect heart (Gen.22:16-17, Heb.6:13-18). Therefore, what God promised to do through Abram's offspring was not subject to change; however, since the promises were to Abram and to his seed, it was completely within God's perogative to transfer the promises from the physical seed to the spiritual seed (Gal.3:7, 29).

This was demonstrated by prophetic type in Jacob's experience at the river Jabbok

(Gen.32:22-32), where as he wrestled with the angel, his name was changed from Jacob to Israel. Jacob's wrestling with the angel symbolizes a spiritual experience in which the carnal gives way to the mind of the Spirit and an energizing is made available to do the will of God, a supernatural enabling to replace the 'old nature' with the 'new nature'. This is also signified by the name Jabbok, which means outpouring. As in the type, God pours out His Spirit on all those who have seen His provision for a walk of victory in the Spirit, rather than struggling in the flesh, and the name Israel (meaning prince with God) then comes into operation with the transfer to a more spiritual condition. The principle of transference to the spiritual counterpart is also pictured by the fact that Jacob (meaning supplanter) replaced or supplanted his brother Esau as the birthright holder after Esau had 'sold out' and despised his birthright. The name Esau means hairy, indicating the earthly or carnal man, and that name was later changed to Edom (meaning red) which links him to the earth from which physical man was formed. Thus Esau becomes a type of all the unregenerate human race, even the descendants of Abraham, and Jacob-Israel is the type of the spirit-born man, the new creature who replaces the old man of sin. These prophetic events in type are designed to emphasize the truth that the physical seed of Abraham would eventually be replaced by the spiritual seed. Jesus made this a reality when He said to those who boasted of their descent from Abraham, 'The Kingdom of God shall be taken from you and given to a gathering of people who will bring forth its fruits (Matt.21:43), to a Kingdom of priests' (Rev.1:5-6).

The natural or physical people of Israel have been preserved through the years, not by virtue of the covenant God made with them as a nation, but simply because of the word which He gave to Abram, confirmed by His oath. The covenant made at Sinai with the 12 tribes was broken and is no longer in force. Because they broke the agreement, God scattered the peoples of natural Israel into the nations, causing them to be cut off and absorbed into the gentile world, - with one exception. That exception was the preserved remnant of the southern Kingdom of Judah which was re-established in the promised land so that there might be a people to receive the Messiah and to fulfill all the things written in the Scriptures. It was God's mercy and forgiveness that made possible their return from captivity to be preserved until the coming of the Messiah, and the measure of this forgiveness and its prophetic equation was given to the disciples in answer to Peter's question concerning forgiveness (Matt.18:21-22). The answer expressed the essence of that which God had been willing to do, even as He requested the same of the disciples, for He would not require of man what He would not be willing to fulfill Himself. Peter asked if seven times would be sufficient in forgiving his brother and Jesus told him that it should rather be seventy times seven. The number given conveyed the idea of completeness of forgiveness, with no animosity retained within the heart, and also conveyed the idea of complete or continuous forgiveness whenever true repentance (the act of turning to righteousness)

is manifested, without limitation as to the number of times.

But also veiled in Jesus' answer was the declaration of God's grace toward an erring nation, showing the extent of His mercy to that remnant which was given permission to return to the promised land and to rebuild the temple. After numerous difficulties, the returned remnant finally began the reinstituted sacrifices on a regular and continuous basis. From the time that the sacrificial rights were reinstituted until the time that the Messiah was cut off was exactly 70 times 7, or 490 years, and thus did the Lord proclaim the extent of His grace and forgiveness after permitting the remnant to return. At the close of that 490 years, the perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ, which provided the foundation for all grace and forgiveness, was offered once for all time. The 490 years measured the extent to which God's forgiveness would be granted to the returned remnant, based on their reinstituted animal sacrifices. Beyond that 490 years there could be no forgiveness, except on the grounds of the perfect sacrifice of the promised Messiah giving Himself as the all-sufficient expiation for the sins of the world. The continuance of the animal sacrifices by the unbelieving Jewish people beyond the stipulated time period, in complete rejection of the one all-sufficient sacrifice, constituted the abomination for which the nation and the temple were made desolate (Dan.9:27). From that time on, those who continued the animal sacrifices fulfilled the prophetic words of Isaiah to the effect that he who kills an ox will be guilty as if he killed a man for sacrifice; he who sacrifices a lamb, as if he cut off a dog's neck; he who presents an offering, as if it were swine's blood; he who burns incense, as if he blesses an idol. They have chosen <u>their own</u> ways and their soul delights in their abominations or despicable things. They did evil before My eyes and chose that in which I do not delight (Isa.66: 3-4). Because of their abominations, they were broken as a people and scattered, remaining in exile and unfruitful for an entire age. But again, because of God's oath to Abraham, He has preserved a remnant of the Jews throughout this age and will yet deal with them.

The 490 year period from the re-establishment of the sacrifices to the establishment of the once-for-all sacrifice of Jesus Christ is not the only use of 70 sevens in Scripture, for the 490 year period is also a pattern which the Lord chooses to use again and again. Our Lord is the same in the past, the present and the future. There was a 490 year period from the time Abram entered the land of Canaan to the time the Israelites entered Canaan. There was a 490 year period from the time of the rule over the Israelites by the Pharoah who did not know Joseph to the time of the rule of their next king, Saul. There was a 490 year period from the rule of the new king, Saul, to the rule of the new line of kings over the land of Palestine, starting with Nebuchadnezzar. There was also a 490 year period from the time of dedicating Solomon's temple to the dedication of the rebuilt temple after the remnant returned from Babylon.

Note that in each of these 490 year periods there was a continuity of time right up to the completion of the period; in none of them is found a discontinuity or a portion of the period set apart for later fulfillment. Each of the periods began with the initiation of a new thing or a change bringing about a new phase, and each extended without interruption to its end and to a beginning of a new phase of the same subject matter. We need to note this typical characteristic, because there is another 490 year period appearing in the prophecy of Daniel 9, which must be interpreted according to the other paralleling patterns given in Scripture.

-DAN. 9-

In about 538 BC, Daniel knew it was almost God's time for completion of the 70 year exile in Babylon, because Jeremiah had prophecied the exile would extend over a period of 70 years (Jer. 25:11-12, 29:10). The first attack on the city of Jerusalem and the deportation of many of its inhabitants was about 606 BC, but the temple was not destroyed until a second seige about 586 BC. Therefore, the release of those of Judah to return to Jerusalem was due in about 536 BC and the rebuilding of the temple was due to be completed about 516 BC. There was a 70 year span for the exile and there was a 70 year span (with a 20 year offset) to the completion of the temple. Daniel also knew that his own people had been cast out of their own land, because they sinned against God prior to the exile period and he knew they continued to displease Him during the exile period. As later became more evident, the people took up the patterns of the Babylonians and became comfortable there; there were but a few, a remnant, who desired to leave Babylon and return to Judah. Because of their diffidence, Daniel was moved and inspired to intercede in the behalf of his nation. There had been no repentance by the nation, no turning <u>from</u> what displeased the Lord and no turning <u>to</u> what would please Him, and Daniel confessed this as a representative of and as an intercessor for the nation in exile, with prayer and supplications, with fasting, and with sack-cloth and ashes (Dan. 9:3-4, IJohn 1:9). His prayer of specific confession and request for forgiveness included himself, although Daniel had been walking in a way pleasing to God, because he was a member of that body of Jews which was participating in sin. This is one of the several examples in Scripture of the effectiveness of a vicarious repentance by a person living a life 'sold out' to Yahweh-Jesus, but he could only repent as one member of the nation. He rightly calls attention to the fact that evil is permitted to come upon those who persist in turning away from God (ICor.5:1-5) and his only basis for requesting forgiveness and grace is for 'Your own sake, O my Gods (Elohim), because Your city and Your people are called by Your name' (Dan.9:19). Here ~~is~~ in this record, a very useful pattern is presented for our application today (2Tim. 3:16).

Daniel immediately received an answer to his effective praying, even while he was still speaking (Matt.6:8). And according to Gabriel's revealing to Daniel, there was to be another

period of 70 units connected with God's plan for Judah, though this one was to be a 70 times 7 period (Dan.9:24). This prophetic word was to be specifically tied to God's dealings with the Jewish people and with Jerusalem during a period of 70 times 7, or 490 years. In Dan.9:24, the words 'determined or decreed' upon your people means 'especially set aside or cut out' for your people. The offer being made was to bring a finishing (lit. restraining) of the transgression of His people so His plan could continue to develop (Isa.53:5), to seal up and make full the measure of sin (Isa. 53:6, 10), to purge away and make expiation and reconciliation for sin, ie: the iniquity not covered by the law, to bring in everlasting righteousness, (the nucleus of it is the Seed of Christ - Isa. 54:17), and to seal up (fulfill) the vision and the prophet (what he reported), and to anoint a most holy something, the Holy of Holies (Jesus Christ, also the Christian dispensation). In other words, this offer was intended to bring into effect a new rule in the chosen land so it could then become a pattern and a living exhibit of the Lord's intent and objective for all lands. But it was to be presented as an offer (as is always God's way) and therefore was not to automatically come into effect independently of its acceptance or rejection. The offer, as was each of the offers to the chosen nation, was to be conditional and provisional. Here again we see 2 sides of the 'coin' --the promises, but also the conditions; it would be presented as a contractual agreement, but would only become a firm contract when the chosen people, or a minimum number of them, accepted the terms of the offer. This same approach is consistent in every one of the offers previously made to this chosen nation.

The 70 weeks in Dan.9:24 were originally written as '70 sevens', not 70 weeks. The 70 times 7 would be 490, which is to be translated into prophetic time (Ezek.4:6), and thereby we obtain the 490 years of which Gabriel spoke. This 490 year period, following the pattern of the previous 490 year parallels, would bring the re-establishment of Jerusalem and Palestine into God's plan and a release from the hindering of Satan and his agents. Initially, these developments were to be specifically tied to God's dealings with Jerusalem and the Jewish people, the nation of Israel, - no others. The period was to start at the time of a commandment (Hebrew: 'a word') to restore and re-establish Jerusalem, not just the temple in this instance, and was to extend into the coming of the Anointed One and then through 7 more years of His ministry (Dan.9:25-27), thus completing the 490 year period. The decree or 'word' was to bring about the building of Jerusalem with walls (Hebrew: ramparts) which provide protection, such as a wall and moat, and streets (Hebrew: broad wide place) or square, in troublous times. According to our records, these are the commandments and letters that were issued:

Cyrus, about 536 BC.(2 Chron. 36:22-23, Ezra 1:1-2. A proclamation (Hebrew: a voice to go out over), and also writing, to rebuild the temple.

The Lord to Haggai, about 520 BC. (Haggai 1). A prophetic command to resume building the temple.

Xerxes I to Esther, about 473 BC (Esther 8:10). A

written letter and command (a word) effecting deliverance for the Jews from Haman's intentions.

Artaxerxes to Ezra, about 460 BC (Ezra 7:13). An enabling for the 2nd expedition to Jerusalem. It is said this was a written decree (Hebrew: discretion, taste) stating that all Israel may go, giving permission to exercise free will. Not all did go.

Artaxerxes to Nehemiah, about 445 BC (Neh.2:8). Letters to provide beams for the gates of the fortress (in the wall), and material for the city's wall and for the house Nehemiah would enter or occupy. The builders had to work on the walls and gates with sword in hand (Neh.4:18), for the building was done in troublous times.

Which is the commandment prophesied in Dan.9:25?

The time to the Anointed One was 7 plus 62 sevens, which total 483 years, but first we must explore the kind of year which is used by the Lord in this prophecy. The year we use today is the earth's orbit around the sun in 365-1/4 days, but is that the same as God's year or that orbit time in effect before sin affected and infected our planet? There have always been 12 months, that number is one of God's numbers, but Rev.11:2 and Rev.13:5 speak of 42 months, a period in which Rev.11:3 and Rev.12:6 tell us there are precisely 1260 days. In Rev.12:14 and Dan.7:25, this period of 42 months or 1260 days is a period of 3-1/2 years. The numbering of 1260 days and also 42 months in 3-1/2 years is particularly interesting, since within every 3 year period of the Hebrew calendar there is an extra month added to adjust the pattern of the months to the equator's declination relative to the sun and to keep the same months in the same seasons of the year. There is also reference to a period of 5 months containing 150 days in Gen.7:11, 24 and 8:3-4, but this alone shows no special difference from the Hebrew calendar. However, these examples do indicate an even 360 days within what could be termed the sin-free orbit around the sun, and in many comparisons of Bible prophecy with archeological findings, the 360 day year appears to be the one used by the Lord in His plans.

If we are reading this rightly as indicating a very slight shift in earth's orbit when rebellion entered, because all of this portion of God's creation was affected (Ro.8:19-22), the 7 plus 62 sevens (483) years of the 360 day variety, concluding with the appearance of the Anointed One, would be 476 of our 365-1/4 day years. If Jesus Christ was born in about 1 AD, as much evidence now seems to indicate, He was anointed for the beginning of His ministry near the end of 32 AD (Lk.3:21-23). The date 476 years prior to His anointing would reach back to 445 or 444 BC, which would be the date of the 'word' or decree of Dan.9:25, if there is no error in the observations. Historians have fixed the date on which the letters were given to Nehemiah by Artaxerxes as 445 BC; however, let it be noted that historical dates back to 1500 BC are subject to a possible error of as much as 10 years.

After the 7 plus 62 sevens of years, the Anointed One was to be cut off and have nothing to Him, having given up everything

(including His close relationship with His Father) on the cross, and this time was fulfilled early in 36 AD, 3-1/2 years after the anointing. Also after the 7 plus 62 sevens of years, a people following another leader who shall come will destroy the city and the sanctuary (John 14:30). This portion of the prophecy foresaw the Anointed One being rejected and cut off (Jesus was also the 'Temple'), and the outcome of the rejection - once it had been confirmed beyond recall - would later result in the destruction of the city and the sanctuary. The fulfillment of His being cut off came into effect with the nation of Israel rejecting the person of Jesus Christ and His being crucified, but the nation's opportunity to accept Him was continued through His apostles and disciples until the time of Stephen's death. Beyond that time late in 39 AD, there was no longer any offering of that ministry to the nation through its leaders, but only to willing individuals in the nation (Acts 8:1). The opportunity presented to these individuals in natural Israel continued during a total of 40 years (a significant number in Scripture) from the beginning of Christ's ministry to its termination in 70 AD, when the non-Christian army of pagan Rome surrounded Jerusalem, took and burned it on the Passover, including the temple, killed tens of thousands and deported about 100,000 of its citizens (Lk.21:20-24). The initial fulfillment was for Israel, but the final fulfillment yet to take place for the nations of spiritual Israel will be associated with another surrounding and then desolation of Jerusalem and Palestine by the armies of the anti-Christ, Satan incarnated in the human body of the ruler of the dreadful beast, world-wide empire now developing, - a ruler who shall come. That latter desolation shall come with a flood of evil from Satan, the serpent (Rev.12:15), and from that time to the end of the Age will be continuous war and desolation for all the nations on earth (Lk.21:22, Rev.12:17, Matt. 24:22, Nah.1:5-8). Obviously, the prophetic period of 70 sevens or 490 years for natural Israel and Jerusalem would have terminated in 39 AD, which is consistent with the time when the New Testament or New Covenant ministry became no longer available to the nation of Israel through its leaders.

Now let us take a careful look at Dan.9:27 solely on the basis of what we can discover in Scripture, for this verse is widely interpreted out of context. The first application of the prophecy is to the people of the Jewish nation and to Jerusalem (:24), though the final application includes spiritual Israel (the Kingdom on earth) and Jerusalem (Christendom) by inescapable inference. The primary subject in the prophecy is the work and person of the Anointed One, Jesus Christ (:24-26), although a single reference is made to the people of another leader (:26). In verse :27, the prophecy continues, stating that He, the Messiah of :26, shall confirm (Hebrew: strengthen) a covenant or testament or agreement with many for one seven or 7 years, - with the Jewish people (:24). Whatever covenant this was to be was one which must already have been in existance with the Jewish people, for it was one which was to be strengthened. From the record of our New Testa-

ment, we know that Jesus, beginning with His baptism by the Holy Spirit in the river Jordan (Matt. 3:16, and a little later with the anointing by His Father (Lk.4:18, John 17:3, 6:46, 62, 3:13), presented a strengthened covenant, entirely consistent with earlier covenants to that nation, which the nation was free to accept or reject. The 69 'weeks' reached to the anointing, so the Messiah's ministry began at the initiation of the 70th 'week'. But the prophecy of :27 places a time limit on the offer of the strengthened covenant to the Jewish nation, terminating 7 years beyond its initial offering. All of God's previous covenants offered to this nation were contingent upon obedience and all were defaulted by the nation's lack of response, yet the nation had been preserved, because of God's unconditional promise to Abram confirmed by His oath (Heb.6:13-18). Therefore, it was necessary that God again offer the nation an opportunity for accepting Yahweh-Jesus as <u>their</u> Messiah and for re-establishing His rule or Kingdom. Jeremiah was given prophecy on this necessity to the effect that, although old covenants had been broken by Israel, a new covenant would be offered precisely like that of the New Testament ministry, and would be offered first to the Jewish nation, - which was fulfilled during a period of 7 years (Jer. 31:27-34, Heb.8:6-13). This new covenant was to result in a substantially strengthened relationship between the Jewish nation and God, <u>if</u> it was accepted, and it was to terminate as did its predecessors, if it was not accepted (Zech.11:10-14). The Messiah was to be cut off in death <u>after</u> the 69 'weeks', placing the crucifixion sometime <u>during</u> the 70th 'week' (after the 70th week had been well started) and making it impossible for the 70th 'week' to be separated from the 69 'weeks' and to be placed at the end of the Age. See the bankruptcy of man's theology and interpretation. The first fulfillment of the 70th 'week' has taken place, but it does not preclude some kind of additional fulfillment in our time. In the early part of His ministry, Jesus Himself acted out the 7 year pattern during the Feast of Tabernacles, especially for the benefit of the leaders of the nation who claimed to know the Scriptures so thoroughly (2Tim.3:16). He presented the New Covenant and He warned them to accept it, or it would be withdrawn (John 7:1, 10, 11, 14, 33, 34, 37). The Feast of Tabernacles celebrated the beginning of a new period, the civil new year, and this was so appropriate for the parable drama being presented. While present at the week-long Feast, He pictured His own ministry. During the first 3-1/2 days He worked among them almost incognito and veiled from the sight of most of the people, but He was there for those who would search Him out (Isa.42:1-9). At mid-week He placed Himself boldly before them, rulers and all, and on the concluding day He completed the drama by a strong invitation to come to Him, - the final invitation during the 7 days (Isa.42:4). A similar drama will play by again in our generation. At another time, Jesus also pictured the limited time for the offer of His strengthened covenant in the parable of the vineyard fig tree (a symbol of the nation of Israel)

in which the owner of the fig tree had been looking for fruit from it for 3 years (Lk.13:6-9). The tree deserved cutting down, but the vine dresser persuaded the owner to allow him to dig around it and fertilize it another season to see if subsequently it would bear fruit. If it did not bear fruit <u>after</u> the additional attention, then the fig tree would be cut down and taken out (Matt.21:43). After His resurrection, when the disciples asked Jesus if this was now the time at which He would re-establish the Kingdom and restore it to Israel (Acts 1:6-8), Jesus would not and could not announce that this was not the time and that the time would have to be deferred, because the offer to the Jewish nation had not yet expired, it had 3-1/2 years yet to run before the nation's rejection of Him would be final.

Jesus Himself was given to be that stronger covenant to the people of Israel and through them to be a light to the nations, but before the new things spring forth God tells of them (Isa.42:6-9). Jesus was foretold to be the messenger or angel of the covenant who was to suddenly come to His temple (Mal.3:1). Jesus Christ is the mediator of a new agreement (Heb. 9:14-15), and He came with the intention of carrying out His Holy covenant which He sealed by oath to Abraham (Lk.1:72-73). Jesus was a minister to the Jews of the truth of God to <u>confirm</u> and add to the promises made to the fathers (Ro.15:8).

Jesus did away with the old order under a defaulted covenant which involved symbolic sacrifices and offerings so that He might inaugurate the new and establish the second order in which He Himself became the once-for-all sacrifice for atonement and for righteousness (2Cor.3:14, Heb. 10:6-10). Gabriel prophecied that He will cause the sacrifice and the offering necessary for approaching God to cease (Dan. 9:27), which Jesus Christ did by the sacrifice of His own life at the mid-point of the final 7 of the 70 sevens. He completed and fulfilled the meaning of all Old Testament symbolic sacrifices and washings which pointed forward to Him and His enabling sacrifice to fill up their prophetic picture, and He brought the reality in place of the acted out dramas in parable previews. Although Jesus knew the nation would reject Him and His astounding ministry, He did not once withdraw the confirming of this strengthened covenant with many, those of the Jewish nation, during the whole 7 year period. If no one else is faithful, God remains faithful and true, never reneging on His promises (Ro.3: 3-4). Even after the crucifixion, He continued to present the firm offer to the rulers of the nation by His Holy Spirit through the apostles and disciples, - up to the murder of Stephen in 39 AD which brought the 490 year prophetic period to a close for Jerusalem and for the Jewish nation. After His resurrection, Jesus instructed the apostles and disciples to continue to present His strengthened covenant to Jerusalem and Israel, beginning with the requirement of deep repentance so that all of sin could be forgiven and erased (Lk.24: 45-47). Subsequently and until the time of Stephen's death, the Jewish nation and its leaders heard the offer being proclaimed, but on that day a great and severe persecution broke out against the Church in Jerusalem which ef-

fectively scattered that group, forcing it out of contact with the government of the Jewish nation. The Apostles remained in Jerusalem to work with and encourage interested individuals in the region, but the period in which the nation as a nation could enter into the strengthened contract offer had expired (Acts 7:57-60, 8:1).

To help in weighing and establishing the validity of the foregoing interpretation of these Dan.9 verses, let us quickly review the focus of them. The primary subject of 9:24 is the work of Jesus Christ; that of :25 is the person of Jesus Christ; and that of :26 is the crucifixion death of Jesus Christ after His anointing for ministry. Verse 27 gives a bold declaration of the vicarious atonement which would be accomplished by the promised Messiah. In the midst or middle of the 70th week, He shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation (of the Mosaic ordinance) to cease. There was no further need for the animal sacrifices of the law to continue, after Jesus had appeared in order to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself and was once offered to bear the sins of many (Heb.9:26, 28). The Messiah was to be cut off, but not for Himself; His atonement was for others and its placement in time was at the middle of the final or 70th 'week'. Since 70 full 'weeks' were set aside for the people (:24), the Jews had only 3-1/2 years after the crucifixion of Christ in which to repent and accept their Messiah, or once again be subject to the judgment of God and eventually suffer again being cast out of the promised land. Through the preaching of the Apostles, the Jews were clearly given an opportunity for <u>national</u> repentance, even though they had crucified their Messiah (Acts 3:12-26). Such repentance would have brought refreshing from the presence of the Lord and restitution to the nation (2Chron.7:14). However, there was complete rejection of the Apostle's testimony by the Jewish rulers and elders, and Stephen, under the power of the Holy Spirit, declared them to be stubborn and uncircumcised and always resisting the Holy Spirit (Acts 7:51).

The rejection of the Messiah by the Jews and their subsequent continuance of the animal sacrifices was an abomination in the sight of God, for which desolation was determined upon their land. Because of the overspreading (literally, extensions) of abominations, He (the Messiah) shall make desolate (the city and sanctuary of :26), even until the full determined end shall be poured upon the desolate (land). It became impossible for God to 'delight' in the continuance of animal sacrifices, once their function had been terminated by Christ's perfect sacrifice of Himself. Therefore, when the Jews continued them in rejection of Christ's sacrifice, they became that abomination in the sight of God of which Isaiah prophecied (Isa.65:1-7, 66:3-4).

The 70 'weeks' allotted to the Jews was to run consecutively, without the final or 70th 'week' being separated from the 69 and relegated exclusively to a future time. Daniel was shown that the allotted 70 'weeks' would see the fulfillment of certain things through the ministry of the promised Anointed One (Dan.

9:24). In that ministry during the 70th 'week', six things were to take place. 1) To finish or fill up the transgression (literally, restrain transgression of the Law). This Jesus did, but the Jews filled up the transgression by crucifying Jesus and also by killing those He sent (Matt.23:32-36). 2) To make an end of sins not covered specifically by the Law. Jesus made an end of sins, by dying on the cross (Heb. 9:26). 3) To make reconciliation for iniquity. This was fulfilled by Jesus in reconciling the whole world to Himself (2Cor.5:19). 4) To bring in everlasting righteousness. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus brought in everlasting righteousness - a seed nucleus of utter righteousness (Ro.3:21-22, 2Cor.5:21, IPet.1:23). 5) To seal up the vision and prophecy. To 'seal up' means to finish or fulfill or fill up, and Jesus did so fulfill (Acts 3:18, Lk.16:16). 6) To anoint the most Holy. After His baptism in the Jordan, the Most Holy (Jesus) was anointed (John 1:32, Matt.3:16, Lk.3:22, 4:18-22, Lk.4:18). All these things took place during the 70th 'week'.

It would have been strange, most strange, if this prophecy given to Daniel did not refer to the wonderful and exceedingly merciful new covenant which Jesus would offer and make available for possession to Daniel's people during a 7 year period, especially since so much of the Old Testament brings a focus on this specific objective of God in His chosen people, - for the Jewish people first, if they would, and then for the nations. Additionally, there is no paralleling precedent in other Scriptures to indicate a break in this particular 490 year period and a deferment of the 70th seven for 2000 years until the end of the Church Age, nor do I think we dare propagate this teaching without a confirming word in Scripture, for every word of truth must be established by two or three testimonies or patterns in the Word of God (John 8:17, 2Cor.13:1).

Thus we can understand that the 490 years of God's extended grace to the Jews found its consummation in the ministry of the promised Messiah and those whom He commissioned and sent out (John 20:21). Jesus was annointed for His ministry of 3-1/2 years at the beginning of the 70th 'week', the final 'week' of 7 years. The middle of that 'week' saw the rejection of His personal ministry by the Jews. It is inconceivable that there would be a more embracing or more pointed abomination than that God's chosen nation, which He had continually blessed and disciplined in great patience and which He protected even through hateful rebellions, should absolutely refuse to accept the strengthened covenant He offered to enable the people of that nation to overcome all evil so they could become an example to show the way to the world, and should utterly reject their Creator, making Him a cursed sacrifice. Even after He became the once-for-all sacrifice and propitiation for all the world, that nation completely ignored the great Gift of God, fought against Him and His followers, and smugly continued to offer animal sacrifices ostensibly to the same God whom they had blasphemed.

The end of the 'week' con-

cluded with the Jews rejecting the witness of the Holy Spirit's testimony. Although the destruction and desolation of the nation did not come until 70 AD, the end of their probation period of 490 years had come, and the age-long judgment was certain. In 70 AD, the people of the prince (the Roman armies) came and destroyed the city and the sanctuary (the temple). The end was to come by being cut off by desolations (Lk.21:20-21). In its preliminary application, the abomination of desolation standing in the holy place (Palestine) was the presence of the Roman armies in siege against Jerusalem (Matt. 24:15-16). Upon the extension of abominations (despicable things) shall be desolation, until the full determined end is poured out on the desolated land (Dan.9:27).

A great deal of other prophecy in Old and New Testaments tells in some detail that Satan, the desolator (Isa.14:6, 17), and his active and passive followers will also see destruction poured out on them (Ezek.28:7-9, Isa.13:9, Rev.19:19-21). When the great abomination of continued symbolic sacrifice became fact, a succession of developments under the guidance of Satan swiftly began to envelop the Jewish nation, and then spread from that center to all nations (Lk.18:8, Rev.12:9). The one who makes desolate immediately came in to fill the vacuum left by the rejection of Christ and that one is to stay until a full determined end is also poured out on him.

The rejection of Jesus Christ and then of His ministries by the Jewish nation resulted in the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD, as prophecied by Christ (Lk.19:41-44), 40 years after the initial offer of the strengthened covenant, and resulted in a subsequent removal of that nation from the land. By the rejection of the Messiah throughout the 7 year offering period, the Jewish nation defaulted and has received no replacement covenant or testament with the Lord to this date. The Jews ceased to be a nation and even now, as a nation again, they have no national covenant with the Lord, - just as none of the other 'faiths' have any established relationship with God. But the natural sons of Abraham do have the unconditional promises given him in the Old Testament and repeated as the sure mercies to David (2Sam.7:8-16, Ps.89:20-37). Therefore, God will reinstate His contract offer when the Jewish nation, the remnant that is then left, qualifies by specifically asking Jesus Christ to function as its Messiah (Matt. 23:38-39). This will come after almost 2000 years of there being no contract with that people who are pictured as Abraham's seed which is as the dust of the earth (Gen.13:16).

Although many words have been written here to show the continuity in fulfillment of the entire 70 'weeks' of Daniel, most Scriptures have more than one application and fulfillment. In about 445 BC Daniel's people heard a call to come out of Babylon and return to Jerusalem (the dwelling place of peace). A few responded - it was far from all responding. In this instance also, we may see an additional application and fulfillment during the final 7 years of the present dispensation, but in quite a different way than the Bible fundamentalists see it. In the first fulfillment,

it was an act of God that caused the sacrifice and oblation to cease, wasn't it? Through the death of Jesus and His resurrection, His sacrifice, it was caused to cease, and this was in the middle of the final 'week' of 7 years. If we are to see a fulfillment in the same pattern during the final 7 years of the present dispensation, there should be an act of God in the middle of that final 'week' which would signal the end right then of a completion of a spiritual sacrifice, and offering, and which would elevate those involved in that sacrifice, even as Jesus was elevated or glorified following the completion of His sacrifice.

The Psalmist gives us insight. "Gather My saints to Me, those who have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice" (Ps.50:1-5). A first-fruits to God and to the Lamb is now laying all upon the altar as a living sacrifice (Ro.12:1), following the Lamb wherever He goes - cooperating in carrying out His thoughts and His plan (Rev.14:4). When the time comes for their being called up higher, through translation and glorification just before the final 3-1/2 years of Great Tribulation, then it can be truly said that their sacrifice and offering to God will have ceased. They will then begin their service to the Lord on the higher plane of glorified life. When Jesus completed His earthly sacrifice and came forth from the grave to glorified life in the middle of Daniel's 70th 'week', during that initial application, He was the firstfruits of them that slept (ICor.15:20). Similarly, when the anointed 144,000 group is translated and glorified while living, in the middle of the 70th 'week' in its end-time and final application, those will be the firstfruits of the living (ICor.15:23). There is thus no conflict in perceiving that many prophetic Scriptures have more than one application and fulfillment.

Then there is another sense in which sacrifice and offering will cease after the firstfruits are translated. We can read in Acts 17:30 that God overlooks times of ignorance, and Peter, speaking to the Jews in the temple, suggests, rightly or wrongly, that it was through ignorance of the common people that they crucified their Messiah (Acts 3:15-17). But after His resurrection, when there was incontrovertable evidence that He was alive and had triumphed over the grave, there was no further excuse for a claim of ignorance and they were commanded to repent (Acts 3:19-21). It shall be much the same in the day when the firstfruits are elevated in translation. The world will have been given concrete evidence of the truth of the Bible and of a living Christ. Ignorance, because of the apostasy of the church systems, will be utterly inexcusable - there is no good excuse now (Ro.1:19-20). The firstfruits translation will be God's signal to the church systems that their dead denominational and sectarian ways, as well as their man-made doctrines and traditions, are to Him as the 'extension of abominations' for which judgment must come (Dan.9:27, IPet.4:17). That which they thought was acceptable as a 'sacrifice and offering', in their ignorance and blindness, must cease, because with the manifestation of the glorified sons of God and the mighty outpouring of His Spirit which will shortly follow, the

new era will begin. Spiritual refreshing and restitution will come to all who will repent and humble themselves before the Lord, refusing to perpetuate the previous church concepts and ways (Acts 3:19-21). Similarly as the Jews had just 3-1/2 years remaining after the death and glorification of Jesus for accepting Him as their promised Messiah and King, so will the world have just 3-1/2 years after the glorification of the firstfruits to turn to the Lord Jesus as Savior and to get ready for the returning King. Thank God, eyes are beginning to be opened now and some are beginning to enter into the new thing He is doing. As with Lazarus, the Lord is taking away the 'napkin of blindness' which has been around our eyes, and we are being loosed from the 'grave clothes' of our old ways of thinking and traditions (John 11:43-45).

However, God's program of development was not stopped because of the refusal of the first chosen people to participate in it. Because the Jewish nation would not prepare for bringing people of all nations into the strengthened covenant, our Lord started a new thing specifically among individuals of the other nations who would be willing to become spiritual sons of Abraham. God did not leave Himself without a witness in the world, nor can His purposes be frustrated. When there was the contract default on the part of the preserved remnant of Abraham's physical seed during the ministry of Jesus the Messiah, He brought His replacement factor into operation and the Kingdom mantle was lifted from the Jews and given to the spiritual heirs of promise, fulfilling the declaration made by Jesus (Matt.21:42-45). Then, in accord with many prophecies, the Gentiles received the gospel witness and began to bring forth fruit, while the Jewish fig tree remnant remained cursed and unfruitful (Mk.11:12-14, 20-21). Throughout our present Age, the Gentiles are having their opportunity, because the promises to Abraham's seed after the flesh have been transferred to Abraham's seed according to the Spirit. A new 'Israel' is functioning in the dynamic of Abraham's faith (Ro.4:16, Gal.3:13-14, 29), natural Israel having been temporarily shunted into the background until the close of the Age, when once again that nation shall become prominent in God's work (Matt.23:37-39).

Israel after the flesh consisted of 12 tribes, each of which had an inheritance in the promised land. The Levites made up a 13th tribe, having no inheritance in the land, but receiving a special place as God's servants among all the people. Joseph, the birthright holder, had a double inheritance through his two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh. After the reign of Solomon, the Kingdom was divided. Ten tribes followed Jereboam and two tribes, Judah and Benjamin, remained loyal to Reheboam, Solomon's son. Because of the defection of Jereboam and because of the 10 tribes taking on idolatry, the Levites migrated to Judah so that they might continue to minister as the custodians of the law and the temple. Remnants of most of the other tribes also migrated to the southern Kingdom of Judah so that they might remain true to the God of their fathers. Thus the spiritual elements were si-

phoned off from the 10 tribes, making their plunge into apostasy even more rapid. Only the voices of certain prophets, who were raised up at times, momentarily stemmed the tide into complete idolatry.

Ten is the number of the Gentiles who stem from Noah, the 10th from Adam. By type and by historical pattern, the 10 northern tribes became symbolic of gentile Christendom which progressively also has become steeped in idolatry. In the spirit of prophecy, Isaiah spoke of the territory around the sea of Galilee as 'Galilee of the nations' (Isa.9:1). After the deportation of the 10 tribes into the land of Assyria, their territory became occupied by gentile peoples and was never fully Israel territory again. Even after the return of a remnant of the southern Kingdom of Judah (known as the Jews), many of whom migrated to the northern area, it was never free of gentile influence and domination, except for an interlude beginning in 1948. Furthermore, after the 10 tribes were deported to Assyria, they were eventually absorbed into the gentile world and lost to history, as far as any separate identity is concerned. Restoration became impossible when Yahweh cast them off and gave them a bill of divorce (Jer.3:6-8). Since His own law declared that a man could not remarry a woman whom he had divorced, it became impossible for Yahweh to receive them back into covenant relationship (Deut. 24:1-4). Not until His death in Jesus Christ could the conditions of banishment be reversed and reconciliation made possible through death to the old and resurrection to the new (Ro. 7:1-4). The prophet Hosea testified that in the place where it is said to them, "You are not My people, there it shall be said to them, You are the children of the living God." (Hos.1:10-11). This was a prophetic declaration that many of the descendents of the 10 tribes, having lost their identity and living in the gentile world, would receive the glad tidings of salvation through Jesus Christ and would become the children of God through Him (John 1:12), also becoming a part of the 'new Israel' of the Spirit.

The history of the southern Kingdom of Judah was entirely different. Judah was not then divorced and cut off, even though taken into captivity. A remnant was permitted to return in preparation for the Messiah. However, after Judah's rejection of the Messiah and the blatant denial of His vicarious atonement by continuing to sacrifice animals to God, they were divorced and cut off and their land was made desolate and they were scattered among the nations. Nevertheless, they were not absorbed into the gentile nations as were the northern tribes, but they have retained their distinctive identity down through the years. For this reason, those of Judah are the only identifiable portion of the physical seed of Abraham and, even though there has been much inter-marriage with other peoples among them, the Lord has promised to clean their blood (Joel 3:20-21).

When Judah turned down the strengthened contract terms offered by Jesus Christ, He transferred the tendered contract terms to a people among the nations which would choose to become a 'replacement Israel'. He

did this so a Body of Christ could become fully prepared to enter into possession of all the terms of the strengthened covenant and become the exemplary display of the truth of those provisions and thereby demonstrate to others how they too can take up the strengthened covenant and move into the experiential possession of all that it offers. How much easier it will be for many to see clearly and begin to fully trust Jesus Christ in all He has already proclaimed, when it is visibly demonstrated at the blowing of the 7th Trumpet that even a few human 'earthen vessels' have truly entered into a living of the righteousness of Jesus Christ, having fully overcome all sin and everything the spiritual principalities and powers (Eph.6:12) can bring against them, and have actually shut off the wages of sin, even death in the physical body (Matt.16:28, John 6:50, 58, 8:51, 11:26, Ro.8:23, ICor.15:51). God's program continues as planned, but with the people of other nations 'grafted' into it (Ro.11:13-29), and it will be through the ministry of a true portion of the Church, which will become the glorious Church during the Great Tribulation period, that many of the natural sons of Abraham and many more sons from the nations will finally be joined to Jesus Christ in the strengthened covenant.

God does not play favorites (Ro.2:11) and, during the past almost 2000 years vacated by natural Israel, He has made a period of training and preparation available to those people of all nations who choose to become the spiritual sons of Abraham (Gal.3:7), including all sincere Christians of either Gentile or Jewish origin. As a result of the Jewish nation's refusal to enter the provisions of His contract offer, the Israel now recognized by our Lord has expanded far beyond the physical boundaries of Palestine, even as was prophetically pictured in the Old Testament by the dispersion of the 10 northern tribes of Israel among all nations. God has provided almost 2000 years of exposure to training and preparation to the Christian community so that those of spiritual Israel might also be brought to the level at which they could be presented with the opportunity for accepting the strengthened covenant which would finish and put an end to transgression, seal up and make full the measure of sin, bring in everlasting righteousness in the millenial Kingdom, complete and fulfill the vision and the prophet's disclosure, and anoint a most holy company in the world (Dan.9:24). The refusal of the first offer to the chosen nation is to bring the same offer to the many peoples of all nations.

The same pattern Jesus employed with the two southern tribes of Judah and Benjamin is also to be employed with the expanded spiritual Israel. Just as there were about 2000 years of training in natural Israel to prepare for the first coming of Jesus Christ, so there have been almost 2000 years of training available for spiritual Israel to prepare for the 2nd coming of Jesus Christ. Just as there was then a voice ministry of John the Baptist for preparing the way (a people) for the first coming, through repentance, so there is now a voice ministry

| DANIEL 2 | DANIEL 7 | DANIEL 9 |
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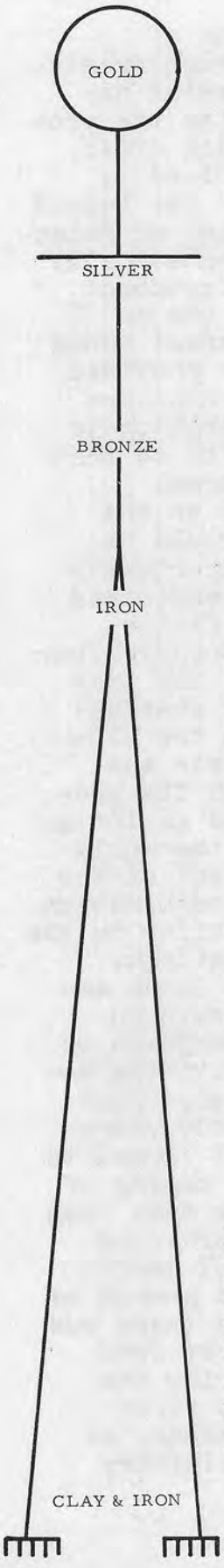


(The dates given are approximate)

Egypt's oppression 1600 B.C.

Assyria - - deportation 700 B.C.

Babylon rule of Judah 606 B.C.
Gold:wealth, spiritual wealth. Also the work and impartation of the spirit world. Refined gold is the work of the Holy Spirit.

LION

Fall of Jerusalem 586 B.C.

Daniel 605 - 534 B.C.
Jeremiah 600 B.C.

Cyrus 540 B.C.

Cyrus's proclamation 536 B.C.

New Temple dedication 516 B.C.

Medo-Persian rule 538 B.C.
Silver: less material wealth, soul qualities. Also the need for the work of redemption.

BEAR

Artaxerxes letters to build walls etc. 445 B.C.

Nehemiah 450 B.C.

69 weeks equates to 483 years
483 years of 360 days is 476 years of 365 days.

476 of 365 day years
-32 years - Christ's period of preparation after 1 A.D.
444 B.C. - the time of Artaxerxes letters to rebuild.

Grecian conquest 333 B.C.
Empire divided 328 B.C.
Bronze: less material wealth, knowledge of earthly things. Also learning and philosophy of man. when refined, it is spiritual knowledge and wisdom.

LEOPARD

Rome conquers Israel 63 B.C.
Pagan Roman Empire split 44 B.C.
Iron: more earthy, emphasis on materialism. Also authority and raw power, carnal, ruthless, crushing - as in the God-rejecting countries of communism. Refined, it is God's power in His prepared Sons.

DREADFUL BEAST

Christ's birth 1 A.D.

Christ's personal ministry 32 - 36 A.D.
His ministry continued to the rulers of the Jews by the Apostles into 39 A.D. Stephan's death concluded the 7 year contract.

The strengthened contract specifically with the nation of Israel, to be in force for 7 years.
Christ Himself 32 - 36 A.D.
Apostles to rulers 36 - 39 A.D.
Judah set aside 39 A.D.
Jerusalem destroyed and the Jews dispersed 70 A.D.

Pagan Roman Empire broken 313 A.D.
Revived as 'Christian Rome' 320 A.D., in an amalgamation of pagan ritual and peoples. The Holy Roman Empire influence spreads far beyond the empire boundaries (just as 'spiritual Israel' did). As a result, 'Christendom'picked up the heritage or 'mantle' of Rome. Christendom included Russia and Russia remains an heir to the heritage of the'Iron' empire and dreadful beast, even though its form has changed from that of Christendom

Spiritual Israel picks up the heritage or 'mantle' of physical Israel and is no longer confined to the boundaries of Palestine.

The Holy Roman Empire splits 700-1054 A.D.

The Reformation (Luther et al.) 1520 A.D.
Clay: more earthy, the advance of human knowledge in humanism, self-attainment elevating man through science, technology and learning - ousting God. It is impossible to combine political power and authority with materialism in a stable mixture. It is unstable, prone to fragmentation, requiring a dictatorial rule. Represents weakness also. But the Lord takes weakness and refines it into ruling power (the rod of iron) and into righteousness.

The dreadful beast empire in partnership with 10 rulers.

Christ's personal ministry to His chosen people of physical Israel had already fulfilled 3 1/2 years. He will fulfill the second 3 1/2 years of personal ministry to spiritual Israel through the manifested sons. (He was the first such Son), during the 3 1/2 years of Great Tribulation on a rebellious world.

At the close of the Great Tribulation, the 'Stone' will crush the whole image into worthless chaff, which will utterly blow away.

going out to call for repentance in a people before His 2nd coming. Just as Jesus then brought an offer of a strengthened covenant, beginning with a personal ministry to His first chosen people of natural Israel which extended for a period of 3-1/2 years, so He will yet fulfill the same pattern for spiritual Israel in a second 3-1/2 year period of personal ministry through the manifested sons (Ro.8:18-24) who will then be functioning in His express image to fully and accurately reflect Him during the 3-1/2 years of Great Tribulation now soon to break upon a rebellious world (Rev.11:3). The sons will perform the same function as the Son. However, unlike the refusal of natural Israel at that earlier time to accept Jesus Christ and His strengthened covenant, in this time there will be a prepared and matured portion of the Body of Christ ready to take up the strengthened contract as the understanding of it is opened up the second time, and the victory over sin and Satan and death will be proclaimed and demonstrated by many in our time, just as it was almost 2000 years ago by One. In this end-time of the Age, there will not be the blanket refusal of the covenant offered to spiritual Israel, but there will be a terminating date on which the offering period will expire for those who continue in rebellion.

THE GREAT TRIBULATION

The period of the Great Tribulation such as the world has never yet experienced and which will never again be experienced (Matt.24:7-8, 21) is referenced in many portions of Scripture. It is pictured specifically and parabolically as a time brought about by man's wickedness, but also as a time at which God has ordained an impasse so that those He loves will have the opportunity to see His mighty hand of deliverance. It is a time when multitudes will be ushered into the 'valley of decision' so that they might have the opportunity to know the living Christ and receive Life forevermore (Joel 3:9-16). It is a time for one fulfillment of the prophecy that every knee must bow to Jesus Christ and every tongue must agree to the full Lordship of Jesus Christ (Isa. 45:22-23, Phil.2:9-11), in heaven because that is one of the requirements for entering, on earth because almost none other will remain there (Acts 3:23), and beneath the earth in the place of the dead because of the overcoming and judgment by Christ (Rev.5:13).

During those few years which will bridge between the Church Age and the Millenium age, at this time of the ends of all the previous ages (ICor. 10:11 literal), there is to be that complete establishment of all that God spoke through His holy prophets in all the previous ages (Acts 3:20-21), Old Testament and New Testament, including even those things which will be the common possession of believers in the Millenial Kingdom of peace and righteousness (Isa.65:17-25). There will be the re-fulfillment in our day of the gold, silver, brass and iron prophecy lumped into one rule. It shall embrace the greater works of all that is past, that is present, and that which is yet still future, making the remnant of the end of our Age the only timeless people ever to come forth and a people knowing no distinction

of dispensation and having no limitations of dispensation (John 14:12). It is a time of mighty works entrusted to the hands of prepared men, signs and wonders and tremendous blessing through the power of the Holy Spirit (Joel 2:17-32), but it is also a time for the fulfillment of vengeance and the fulfilling of all things ever written by the prophets against rebellious and wicked people of the world (Lk. 21:22). It is a time of very great Light for the faithful, but in the same period it is a time of exceeding darkness for the rebellious, as the previous ages fade away and the overlap of the new age begins to be evident (Isa.35:4-7, 61:1-4, 63: 3-6).

In a search for other Scripture confirming what seems so apparently to be the duration of this overlapping period common to both the old and the new age, The Great Tribulation (Dan.12:1, Joel 2:1-2, Matt. 24:21), we find there are several other uses of a 3-1/2 unit period associated with and resulting from sin-rebellion which illustrate the Lord's pattern. One such period of affliction as never was or ever will be again, like that referenced in Matt.24:21, is also mentioned in Ex.9:18, 10:14, as a result of rebellion against God. Associated with the affliction at the time of the exodus from Egypt (a type of the world order) was a 3 day period of intense darkness, even while the chosen people received much light (Ex.10:22-23). In Bible application, the round number is typically used to represent a number and a portion. Because of sin, David was asked to choose 3 years of famine, or 3 months of devastation, or 3 days of the sword of the Lord and of pestilence in the land (IChron.21:11-12). Because of rebellion, the people of Moab were exposed to a 3 year period of trouble from which only a small remnant survived (Isa.16: 14). As a result of rebellion, a 3 year period warning of judgment came upon Egypt, a type of the world, through the agency of Assyria, a type for the dominant world power at the end of the Church Age (Isa.20:3-4). Because of sin, the land of Ahab experienced 3 years of famine (IKings 17:1, 18:1, Lk.4:25). As a result of blasphemy, two she bears (a type of the two beasts of Rev.13:1, 11) came out of the forest (2Kings 2: 11-24) and overcame 42 of the teen-agers in the group (a type of the 42 months or 3-1/2 years of Rev.13:5). Because of rebellion, the Saul who became Paul experienced 3 days of darkness (Acts 9:9). At the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, there were about 3 hours of darkness over the whole land before the curtain veiling the Holy of Holies in the temple was torn apart (Lk.23:44-45). The Bible accounts referring to the day of the Lord, the Great Tribulation period, describe darkness, famine, devastation by enemies, pestilence, the appearance of the desolator, and the oppression of the saints. But just as it was in the Exodus picture (Ex.10:22-23), it is also a period in which there is to be great spiritual light and protection available to those who are interested, a period in which God is an effective refuge (Matt.24:7-9, :12-15, :29-31, Lk.21:11-19, :25-28, Isa.24:1-6, :20-23, 25:6-9, 13:6-13, Joel 2:28-32, 3:9-16, Acts 2:17-21).

Although from Bible prophecy we can expect a progressive increase in world troubles from this day to the end of the Age, there is a single portion of this concluding period in which Scripture says the world systems of religion, commerce and government will be crumbled so thoroughly that it will be a time of tribulation or pressure such as the world has never seen nor will ever see again (Rev.16:18-19, 18:21-24). The specific extent of the Great Tribulation is to be a time of 3-1/2 years, a period described as a time, and times, and a dividing of a time or 3-1/2 years (Dan.7:25, 12:7, Rev.12:14), as 42 months (Rev.11:2, 13:5), and as 1260 days (Rev.11:3, 12:6). The Great Tribulation will cover the whole earth and affect all nations (Lk.21:26, 35, Rev.13:5-7); it will be a time when <u>all</u> things written in Scripture will be fulfilled (Lk.21:22). And it is <u>after</u> the saints win a complete victory over the enemy at the closing of the Great Tribulation period that those who have cleansed their own garments (Rev.22:14) and have themselves overcome in battle (Rev. 3:21) will be gathered to Jesus Himself (Matt.24:29-31). Man's interpretation which shows no Church participation in the Lord's battle with Satan, during the Great Tribulation, to completely dispossess him of his empire is only encouraged by wishful thinking and a neglect of <u>personal</u> searching out the Word to see if these things are so (Acts 17:11). There is no Scriptural backing and no valid excuse to support the wide-spread and deceitfully seductive but comfortable teaching that all Christians, regardless of their response and diligence and maturity in what our Lord says He requires, will suddenly be lifted out of this world to recline with Jesus in the heavenlies and from there watch the subsequent Great Tribulation engulf a world of humans whom God says He loves with a fervent love. There is no Scriptural support for a concept prevailing over much of Christendom that all of the world will be suddenly deprived of its Body of Christ and even of the power of the Holy Spirit, leaving Satan and his hosts complete freedom of action with no opposition. This is completely contrary to the whole thrust of the Bible. God will always and continually and effectively war against lawlessness, wherever it may be.

It is necessary in God's plan for Christians to participate in and go through this period of great trouble such as the world has never yet experienced and never will again, and this pattern of participation is pictured again and again in the Bible (Rev.7:13-14, 13:7-10). The chosen people remained <u>in the midst</u> of the plagues of Egypt (a type of the world) and the three days of darkness, but they had supernatural protection and light. The death angel passed through their land and among their houses, but passed over when he saw the blood application to the doorway. Noah and his family remained in the midst of the judgment engulfing the world, but were protected in the ark (a type of Jesus). Daniel's three friends experienced all of the flames of the furnace, but one like the Son of Man was there protecting

them. Daniel experienced the immediate presence of the hungry lions (a type of the satanic host), but was not devoured. Jesus was not spared the 3-1/2 years of physical and spiritual abuse, but He emerged victorious. David's nation experienced the 3 days of the sword of the Lord and of pestilence and emerged. The followers of God also personally knew the deprivations of the 3-1/2 years of no rain and food shortage in Ahab's land, including Elijah, but their needs were provided by God. Paul experienced the 3 days of darkness, but he stood fast and was delivered.

The overcoming of the world, the flesh, and the Devil, in cluding even death of the physical body, is not to be restricted to those saints who will move about in their glorified bodies. There is also the potential now of the saints recognizing, desiring and, through qualifying, appropriating the victory over death here in the end of this Age in their present earthly temples. There is the availability <u>now</u> of the very Life of Christ, of the entrance into the heritage in the Spirit, of participating in the Melchizedek priesthood and of living a spotless, righteous life without blemish, much like that of the Son of God Himself, through the virtue of His abiding presence within. The Bible says that God is bound by His word and His oath, but He is not bound by the dispensations, by general historical procedure, or by the opinions of men. True, it is mentioned in Hebrews that it is appointed unto men once to die, but even though death is quite general Enoch was free to reach up and believe for his translation without experiencing death (Heb. 11:5), and God could not deny him. Nor did God prevent Elijah from being caught up in a chariot of fire without seeing death, when Elijah understood the potential and believed for it (2Kings 2:11). Nor did God move against extending the life of the apostle John for approximately 2000 years, when John understood what God's plan makes available and believed for it; it was not Peter's business, nor was it contrary to God's Word (Mk.9:1, John 21:19-23). Jesus promised He would raise up at the last day all who would believe into His 'name' (appropriate His nature and character) (John 6:40), but that did not prevent Him from bringing Lazarus forth from death before the last day. Anyone who will believe for it and qualify, anyone who will choose to respond to the Lord's revealing (faith comes with the action following the revealing) will not be denied the divine impartation which will change the mortal body into an immortal and incorruptible body, either an earthly incorruptible body such as Jesus had, or a glorified celestial body such as Jesus has. If we have agreed with the Lord for a resurrection at the last day, are we going to have an evil eye if God in His mercy and love imparts the qualities of His own Life to some who qualify before the last day? This promise was first open to Israel in 32-39 AD, and now, almost 2000 years later, is being made clear again to spiritual Israel - to those who will qualify (2Tim.1:10).

Jesus said, 'I AM the Resurrection and the Life' and He was not just referring to an historic event in the distant future. The Resurrection and the

Life is the living Lord Jesus Christ who dwells in the temple of our being by His Spirit. Jesus wept as He yearned to inspire faith-response in Mary and Martha at the tomb of Lazarus, but they, like most Christians today, insisted in believing facts about Him and about God, instead of believing into Him (John 11:23-27, 35, 6:50, 58, 8:51). Jesus wanted them to believe that He was the I AM (John 8:58). They were willing to believe in an historic future resurrection and that Christ was the Messiah, and so are we, but that believing is not sufficient to bring one into the fulness of 'adoption' sonship and possession of our inheritance (Ro.8:13-17, 23). They confessed faith in the fact of resurrection for Lazarus in the last day, but Jesus replied, 'I Am the Resurrection and the Life. Whoever believes in Me, although he may die, yet he shall live'. That was the case of Lazarus and all who will not yet believe all that the Prophet spoke. The Lord continued, 'And <u>whoever</u> continues to live and believes in Me, (as the I Am and the Resurrection and the Life) shall never (need to) die at all. Do you believe this?' (John 11:25-26). It is certain we do not believe it, - or we might believe it theoretically, - but how very few have believed it experimentally and demonstrated the sure result. Yet the promise is there, even though we choose to disbelieve it, and the Bible says those who attain to full 'adoption' sonship <u>will</u> be manifesting the Life of Jesus Christ in redeemed and incorruptible bodies in this time, as the manifested sons of God. The Word of Unveiling will grip the hearts of those who are willing and eager for <u>all</u> the Lord offers, and they shall become prepared and appropriate the Resurrection and the Life even now in this life-time. If they should not, Christ could never return to earth in victory, because God has said, 'Sit here at My righthand, <u>until</u> I make your enemies your footstool', the footstool of your <u>feet</u> (Ps.110:1, ICor.15:25-26). The last enemy is death. The feet upon which the whole Body will stand and gain support are those certain few in our generation.

The Bible repetitively states that Jesus will remain where He now is at the righthand of His Father, until <u>all</u> enemies are put under His feet (Ps.110:1, Matt.22:44, Eph.1:22-23, Acts 3:21). In the Body of Christ, Jesus is the Head and the generation living at the time in which all these things take place is the feet (the same sequence of progression as seen in the Dan.2 image picture). How can we possibly conclude that Jesus will violate His demonstrated patterns of action and catch up an infantile, miserable, powerless, defeated, blinded, disease-ridden and adulterous, yet self-satisified, presumptious and arrogant Church to attempt a work in the heavens against an enemy with whom it has consistently been demonstrating an inability to cope? Jesus will not move from His position at the righthand of His Father to be joined with His prepared Body of Christ, until <u>all</u> enemies are under the feet of His Body, - including that of death of the physical body (ICor.15:51-55, Ro.8:23, IThess.5:23). A group of persistent overcomers must rise from within the true Church, which group shall conquer and become absolutely victorious over all the opposing forces of the

world, the flesh and the Devil (Ro.16:20), - before the present Church Age draws to a close, and in spite of the Church attitude.

The Lord's purpose and objective for those of His Body of Christ is not that of their passively waiting for a God, 'who is all love', to unilaterally effect a transition from a world yet abundant with soul-satisfying, material things into a self-indulgent ease in a spiritual realm. The Bible just does not say that. The Bible does say that the Body of Christ is to engage in battle (Eph.6:11-13) with a vastly superior foe (from the human viewpoint) - and win (Ro.8:35-39). The Bible says that it is this prepared and well-trained portion of the Body which is to overcome and completely dispossess the enemies of Jesus, ejecting the enemy beings from all of the promised land in which Satan and his hosts of followers have been unfaithful stewards (Lk.19:22-27). The victors will then possess all of the realm now ruled by Satan so that God's will can become fact on earth as it is in heaven, - with no opposition remaining (Heb.1:13, 2:8).

Satan and his hosts are on one side of the battle, and dedicated, willing and obedient Christians are on the other side. Those whom the Lord will use to engage the enemy in the thick of the battle will be only the sufficiently matured and strengthened Christians (Eph.6:14-18) who have undertaken the purifying and training and who have been adequately tested and proven, for God will permit only those things in battle to come against any Christian which he is able to handle within his attained capabilities (ICor.10:13). Most Christians have not yet permitted the Lord to take them through the sequence of purifying, training, testing and proving, but the Lord can bring deliverance (victory) by many or by few (ISam.14:6). Those in the front lines of battle will need to have been trained to handle whatever Satan himself and his higher echelon demons can bring against the Body of Christ; there is to be no giving way, not any. The initial field of intense battle is to be in that gaseous envelope surrounding the earth, out to about 4500 miles. It is in that portion of his realm that prepared and trained Christians will first come against Satan and his hosts in front line fighting, and there will be a complete victory for the saints which will eject all of the enemy hosts from that part of Satan's empire. Michael and his agents, including earth men who have been specifically empowered and equipped for this phase of the battle, will cast down Satan and his angels from his heaven (Eph.2:2) to the surface of the earth and its near atmosphere (Rev.12:7-9). In order for prepared humans to participate in this aerial phase of the consummating battle against demon principalities and powers, a company of Christians who have made themselves ready is selected and given glorified physical bodies to enable a successful facing and conquering of the enemy in his own realm surrounding the earth (Rev.12:4-5). Following this casting down, another company of Christians, the still earth-bound army of the Lord made up of prepared saints remaining on earth during the time of the battle, will take up the contest on the earth's surface to wrest the remainder of

Satan's empire from his grasp. The time of this warfare with Satan's hosts on the surface of the earth is the period of Great Tribulation (Rev.12:14-17), during which Satan attempts to incite men to destroy the world and each other (Matt.24:22). The scene is the surface of the earth and the action is in an environment of trouble such as the earth has never yet experienced and never will again. The destroyer, Satan, is then cast into the final and decisive battle which will determine who gets his empire or whether there will be anything left to possess. But the outcome is foreseen and is promised to be a complete and absolute victory by which Satan and all his agents, demon and human, are forced to relinquish the whole stewardship to Jesus Christ and His Army and are totally denied even a small corner of what has been theirs. The strategy of our Lord is awesome. He will have two armies capable of victory in the power of His Spirit (not without Him), one in the outer realms surrounding this planet and the other on the surface of the planet itself; Jesus will not vacate His position of strength by the removal of His earthly army or His Holy Spirit empowerment from the battleground before the forces of the enemy are utterly destroyed and removed from off the face of the earth. Then and only then His Kingdom of peace and righteousness will begin to cover the whole earth, because there will be almost no soul remaining on earth who will refuse it.

When the saints on earth clearly have the victory, those who have prepared themselves to reign and rule with Christ, in the heavenly New Jerusalem, having run the race and <u>won</u> the crown (ICor.9:24-25), will be raised up at the end of the Great Tribulation during the final sounding of the 7 Trumpets of Rev.8, 9 and 10 (ICor.15:52-55). In their glorified bodies they will be with Jesus Christ to share His throne and His rule in His heavenly Kingdom in that New Jerusalem situated in the heavenlies (Rev.2:26-27, 3:21). The winners of the heavenly <u>prize</u> who have died will be raised first and then immediately the prize winners who are still alive will accompany them (IThess. 4:15-17). Soon thereafter, Christ's ruling authority over the earth will begin to issue out of the heavenly New Jerusalem (Rev.21:10, 22:2) which will then have become visible in the sky, and the administration of Christ's rule over the nations will begin to issue from the earthly Jerusalem in Palestine (Jer.3:17).

PROPHECY ON THE 10 TRIBES

Daniel was given specific prophecy on the events and opportunities to be presented to the two southern tribes of Israel, Judah and Benjamin (Dan.9:24), and prophecy also was given him about the northern 10 tribes among the nations, but not so specifically. The 10 tribes had been deported and dispersed among the nations during the Assyrian occupation of Palestine, losing their distinctive identity and becoming known as the 'lost' 10 tribes of Israel. Although these 10 tribes cannot be identified with any segment

of the human race today, a remnant of each tribe has been preserved down through the years, known only to God. God commanded and He sifted the house of Israel (the 10 tribes) among all the nations, like grain is sifted in a sieve, and yet not the least kernal shall fall upon the earth and be lost (Amos 9:8-9). The 'sieve' has thoroughly mixed the 10 tribes among the gentile nations and the members have not retained a separate and distinct identity; they are not known even to themselves. But because of the promise made to Abraham and his seed, God will yet gather a remnant of each of the tribes out of the nations and will place those remnants once again in the promised land. Since they are known only to God, it will take a special act of providence and revelation to separate them and cause them to return to the land of their fathers (Isa.65:8-10). The return will not take place, however, until the land has been purged and made ready, for the Lord Jesus Himself will first shake the land by touching His feet on the Mount of Olives (Zech.14:4) and will take away the iniquity of the land by the fire of His presence (2Thess.1:6-9).

It is also true that although the 10 tribes cannot be identified with any modern nations or group of nations by lineal descent, yet there is a spiritual sense in which certain nations can be properly considered the 'Israel of God' in harmony with the transfer of the Kingdom inheritance from the natural to the spiritual seed of Abraham. There is, according to pattern, a spiritual counterpart to the tribes of Israel in evidence among the Christian nations of today, - for these counterparts would of necessity have to be ones with a Christian heritage and culture, even though greatly defiled in many ways.

Because of the special purpose God has for one of these 'tribes' of end time spiritual Israel, a prophetic relationship has been given. It is written that Dan shall judge his people as one of the tribes of Israel and that Dan shall be a serpent by the way, an adder or horned snake in the path, that bites at the horse's heels so that his rider shall fall backward (Gen.49:16-17). It was the son of a woman of Dan, with an Egyptian father, that blasphemed the name of the Lord and had to be stoned after the children of Israel had departed out of the land of Egypt (Lev.24:10-16, 23). It was the tribe of Dan that marched north and took territory not assigned to it. And it was the children of Dan who apostacized, set up the graven image of Micah and employed a Levite who had turned to idols as their tribal priest (Judges 17:12-13, 18:1-31). It was on the north that the standard of the tribe of Dan was erected when the Israelites camped in the wilderness (Num.2:25).

And it is from the north that God has decreed judgment to come upon the tribes of both natural and spiritual Israel (Ezek.38:14-16, Joel 2:20). In the sealing of the tribes prophetically pictured in Rev.7:5-8, the tribe of Dan is omitted, and Rev.13:1 pictures the beast out of the sea of human emotions as having the name of blasphemy

upon its heads. This corresponds to the type mentioned in the Lev. 24:10-23 passage, where a man of Dan blasphemed the name of the Lord. In its modern spiritual counterpart, the tribe of Dan is represented by a nation which is anti-God, has apostacized <u>from</u> Christianity and has taken upon its head the name of blasphemy. It must be a nation which has repudiated the Lord God and cursed the name of Jesus Christ, occupies territory in the north, and is capable of bringing judgment by military action against the other nations. Only one nation satisfies the conditions. That nation, which is the seat of the sea-beast of communism, which is positioned in the uttermost north, which is the serpent in the path (Satanic control) and which will bring the other 'tribes' or nations of Christendom under judgment of war, is Russia. It can be none other.

Russia is the portion of the extended Holy Roman Empire, through the Greek Orthodox Church. Russia has apostacized and has accumulated the strength to bring the judgment of war on all of Christendom. In the description of the descent of the forces of Gog upon end-time Israel, it is written that they fell upon the mountains of Israel (Ezek.39:2, 4). In Scripture, a mountain is symbolic of a kingdom or nation. Thus it is pictured symbolically and prophetically that the end-time Israel is more than one tiny nation in the land of Palestine. End-time Israel is also a group of mountains, Christian nations of <u>spiritual</u> Israel, which shall feel the wrath of the beast system of communism under the leadership of Russia-Dan when the final staging of the end-time drama takes place.

Why do we say there is only one nation which can possibly fulfill the prophecy of the beast nation of the end of our Age? Couldn't one of several other nations develop its power in to world rule as the years roll by? Why couldn't one of the Popes be that anti-Christ? How do we know the USA will not become that dreadful and terrible beast? The answers are not too hard, if we use the whole of the Bible and think.

From the words of Jesus, we know that all things must be fulfilled <u>before</u> the generation passes away which was alive at the time of Israel's budding into national existence again. We are now approaching 30 years of elapsed time since the budding, and the period of a generation is usually considered to be about 30 years, or possibly a little more. It then has to follow that the beast power under consideration <u>must</u> already be almost strong enough to act out its prophetic role of world dominion. Weaker nations just don't have the time to develop, even if they had the resources. It has to be a nation <u>now</u> almost strong enough and <u>now</u> with enough military reserves. It should be rather obvious to the thinking mind that the world power of this anti-Christ must be a well organized and well equipped military power. No ecclesiastical body could fulfill the many prophecies which speak of raw military force such as the beast power will employ in <u>making</u> peoples captive. In the area of military resources alone, we

could place only two nations of the world even in the potential position of being able to subdue the world. Russia is one and the other is the USA, which built Russia to where she is and will yet pay dearly for that disobedience to God. Both Russia and the USA individually control more than enough weapons necessary to eliminate all life from the face of the earth. Both have the means to deliver these weapons on target. However, the USA does not fulfill the other prophetic descriptions. Although the USA is not very serious about its stand in pure Christianity, there is no conceivable way in which the USA could change its people to directly repudiate God and Jesus Christ within only the few years remaining within this generation. The USA does not occupy a geographic position in the uttermost north from Palestine. Nor has the USA had its religious derivation directly from either side of the Holy Roman Empire. The USA has never had a State religion. Its religious background is from many groups of different persuasion. With all the prophecies taken together, Russia is the only possible fulfillment of the dreadful beast which rises out of the sea of human lust for self-fulfillment.

Here again we see that God's Word cannot be confined to a single fulfillment or application. His Word is rich and many-sided, having many facets of truth, all conformed to the one basic pattern of truth which has been dramatized through the history and institutions of the seed of Abraham and based on the immutable oath God made when declaring His purposes to Abraham. God will teach by His Spirit, so we need not listen to the carnal reasonings of those who have eaten the tare seed of the enemy (Matt.13:25). This is the day in which God will bring all things to light, and in which no thing shall remain hidden (Mark 4:22), - to those who are searching and asking and listening.

## THE FILLING UP OF PROPHECY

Jesus said that the man who really believes in Him will do the same works that Jesus did and will do even greater works than these, because Jesus has been glorified and has taken His position at the throne of His Father (John 14:12). What is the key to the greater works Jesus prophesied would happen? The Holy Spirit universalized the moving of Christ's ministry into a many-membered Body, but the unique manifestation of the Body of Christ will come forth in the end-time when, in a very special way, a portion of the Church is purified, united and raised up. This unique manifestation will be more than a restoration to the status of the early New Testament Church. The New Testament principles and practices will be restored as a part of the establishment of what God will do today, but the Lord will move even farther and the early New Testament Church will be far more than reproduced. All the things prophesied in the Old and New Testaments will also emerge. This is the time for the establishment of all things spoken of by the mouth of all the holy prophets since the world began. The Lord's moving today is more than a restoration of the New Testament; it is everything from the Old and New Testaments, on up to the present, and

this move will reach as well into the things of the age to come, bringing them into the present. Within a short time now, some will walk in an establishment of the greater works of all that is past, present, and that which is still future. A full prepared and purified fractional part of the Body will be the only timeless people ever to come forth, a people that will know no distinction of dispensation and will have no limitations of dispensation. This is prophetic revelation far beyond what the organized Churches are presenting. As we stand before the Lord, we will see the restrictions of the past, of the present, and even any restrictions of the future age removed from that remnant which demands God's full plan in the end-time.

One of the most important keys that will come forth at this time to help the people is the learning <u>how</u> to become instruments of Diety. The learning will first of all have to engage spirit control from the Holy Spirit, instead of soul or self-control. A common focus of the members of the Body of Christ upon any one thing that is presented to them as a Body will do more than any ministry or combination of ministries that have ever existed from the days of the Book of Genesis up to the present hour. We have not understood this enabling. There has to be a breaking through beyond the present limitations in our minds. We know we are on the verge of changes, because the minute we begin to open up to the potential, immediately satanic pressures come against us. The end-time sons of God will find that the restrictions on mere man will be removed from them, placing them on a plane of individual authority that resembles that of Jesus Christ. God created man to first gain dominion over his inner world and then gain dominion over the outer world. Sometime after the fall of man (at the time of the flood), everything within him became limited and fogged - reduced to only a fraction of what he can have -, but the end-time sons of God will be raised up into the fulness of God's plan.

Do you understand how man should control things? Have you heard of people who could control the growth of plants to a limited degree, who by their presence could cause plants to wither or to grow rapidly? Jacob was able to control the heredity in the markings of an entire flock of animals by the striped stakes he set before them. Do you believe it is possible for one human being to control another animate being or to control inanimate objects by the power of his mind? The prophet Elijah was able to control weather and the power of life and death; he could bring fire out of heaven to devour his adversaries, even as is prophesied for the two witnesses of Rev.11:4-6. In measure, the prophets moved in the control of the animate and the inanimate world; they had some dominion over the natural realm and they moved somewhat freely in the spiritual realm, yet all this was limited. These enablings are only shadows of what man is to have when God places him in dominion over all the work of His hands, - first the inner 'world' and then the outer world.

What do you think will happen in the end-time when the

limitations and restrictions are removed? Can you begin to understand now why you are under pressure and why all 'hell' breaks loose against you when you become serious about this potential? It is because we are coming toward a breakthrough. In our Christian walk, many things are important, but the greatest thing with which we can be occupied in this hour is to break through and then, with limitations removed, minister to people and bring to them the glorious message of the full Kingdom for here and now. This good news of Christ's Kingdom, with all of its force and power being substantiated and with a clear testimony of its Lord and His exaltation, is to be preached in all the world for a witness. Before the Bowls of Wrath are poured out in judgment to cleanse the earth of its refuse, the world will receive one more witness, - the most fantastic, supernatural, powerful, miraculous, judgment-sweeping ministry that the world has ever seen. And you can share in it, if you will permit yourself to become qualified.

This is the day for the establishment, the restitution, the restoration. These are the three words used in various translations of Acts 3:20-21, which speak of the time of the establishment, the restitution, or the restoration (literally the leaving of all that man has instituted) of all things which God has spoken by the mouths of all His holy prophets since the world began. The heavens must receive and retain or contain Jesus until the time for this establishment.

When you worship, do you just sing along or are you really worshipping the majestic Lord who is coming to be glorified in the believer, and is to be exalted in the believer, whose very presence is to be admired in His saints? (2Thess.1:10). When you read the Bible, do you read carefully and thoroughly? If you are a casual reader or a speed reader of the Scriptures, you will be deceived, because you will read about Jesus and the disciples, about Judas and the betrayal, about the persecutions and difficulties, about the One who was despised and rejected by men and misunderstood - for though the world was made by Him, the world knew Him not. But in this hour, Jesus is coming to be glorified, not betrayed, and He is coming to be admired, not despised. Those who use the title of the Lord Jesus Christ with four letter words are coming to the hour in which they will be judged by even the presence of people who know how to walk with God. The prophets spoke of the Lamb who was to be the sacrifice, but He is also the Lion of the tribe of Judah who came to be its King and now is soon coming to be Lord and King over all the earth (Rev.19:11-16).

John wrote that we should walk as Jesus walked and become pure as He is pure (IJohn 2:3, 3:3). We should really know what this walk is about. The veil has been over so many things while God was preparing us. Jesus said, 'I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish that it were already kindled' (Lk.12:49). In our generation, it is soon to be, so don't be confused about what the Lord is coming to do with this walk. He is not coming to bless all the Churches, to give a shot of adrenalin to the old corpse to

make it dance again, to put patches on old clothing, or to glue up leaky water pots (Jer.2:13, 18:4). He is coming to bring death and destruction to the old order of things and to bring forth the birth of the new. The so-called charismatic renewal did not build churches, it tore them apart. Pastors were separated from their congregations, congregations were decimated and split. What happens when God starts to move? Judgment begins at the house of the Lord (IPet. 4:17-18). The presentation of the faith taught by Yahweh-Jesus is not going to be acceptable, neither will it be pleasant, to the rank and file church congregation or to its leaders.

The next step in this walk will be revolutionary as well as a blessing, when we begin to invade 'Babylon', especially the ecclesiastical, with guerrilla tactics and leave it in a shambles. In Rev.18, the people of the world weep when 'Babylon' comes down. There is a weeping and wailing in their hearts as they see the glory and grandeur of 'Babylon' destroyed (Rev.18:9-11). They hate to see the collapse and destruction of the great religious, commercial and political fabric which has held so many of man's enterprises together. Don't think that this will trouble only a few churches, for God wants to bring an end to the old order and He will destroy it by His Word as the people stand and prophesy. By human reasoning this sounds fantastic, but your heart should leap within you for that new day which is soon here.

The Spirit of God is yearning within us that the plane of prophecy (speaking forth His Word of truth) should rise to become creative with His judgment, so that we shall speak and impart living words to transform and change people as they hear them - the kind of words the living Christ spoke to His disciples, 'Now you are clean, through the Word I have spoken to you' (John 15:3). Attain to and see and continue to see yourself clean and purged, removed from every contamination of this Age, because you can and are expected to be, as it is prophesied (Ro.8:13). This overcoming of the 'flesh', the Devil and the world, including death, is for the many-membered Body, as Christ speaks to His people again. The ends of the earth will hear the songs of Zion, and the powers of hell will tremble.

We are to stop interpreting the Book of Revelation in the way that Satan has inspired men without revelation to interpret it. Much of it has been fulfilled and the traditional ways of interpreting it are more dead and false than the interpretations of the Scribes and Pharisees in the days when the Church came forth. The apostles were anointed to see things in the Word that so upset the Pharisees, the Sadducees and the chief priests that they were ready to kill them as heretics, because they thought the new insights were false doctrine - but they were not. We read the New Testament today and it makes the Old Testament alive, and vice-versa, but the Jews and most Christians still are

blinded when they read the Old Testament, because they never received that revelation to know what it is about (Rev.12:9). Likewise, those who read the New Testament at this time with no other interpretations than dispensational or traditional teaching of the Church are missing what God is doing (Lk.18:8). The most significant thing that has happened in the last 2000 years is the present restoring of the faith to the Body of Christ and you can't find it in any of the traditional interpretations of the Bible, because there was no revelation of it in them. God is bringing us revelation and will bring us revelation, and we are being and probably will be called heretics, but the revelation will show us how to make the restoration happen and how to walk in its purity. The key of knowledge is being restored to the Church and Wisdom is being returned (Hos.4:6). God is restoring His authority to a people being born out of the faithful Church, and He will heal His people through them.

Why are some of you being drawn to a re-discovery of Truth and toward a different Church concept as it is actually patterned in Scripture? Because the Lord is enlightening your hearts. Why do you cling to this approach in the midst of conflict and battle and assault? Because the Lord has given you a revelation of Himself, limited as it yet might be. Don't say, 'I'm going to have a walk with God'; you now have a walk with God, but you need to make more of it, much more of it. You need to continuously overcome the spiritual adultery of this Age that is gripping human spirits to destroy and bring down. You need to continuously overcome passivity in your mind and spirit and to apply that which God has provided to loose you and purge you within and without, until you are transformed into His purity by the renewing of your mind to parallel His, and you then know the good and acceptable and perfect will of God. He places all that is necessary before us, but it is our own initiative that puts it into action and fulfillment, through the faith He then supplies (Gal.5:6, John 14:21).

In contemporary revelations from the Lord, He is showing us things that are going to come, and He is encouraging us to go ahead in spite of the absolute inadequacy and insufficiency of each one of us. None of this that God will do is to happen because of anything naturally in us. God is raising up the poor of the world to make them rich in The faith and heirs of the Kingdom. The marvel of our time will be His grace poured out upon an unworthy and inadequate people. Was it because of Samson's biceps that he could pull up the gates and carry them to a hilltop 10 miles away? No, for the Word says that the Spirit of the Lord came upon him and the greatest mystery among the Philistines was the source of his strength, for they could not find it in the man.

God will do signs and wonders, and the people that know their God shall be strong and do exploits (Dan.11:32).

The key is in knowing Him experientially and walking with Him (Deut.8:2-3). It's in His grace, in His love, and in His mercy that He comes down upon us, and He will clothe and blanket us with Himself so that, if we have the desire, we will be bold as lions, fierce as tigers, walking in where angels fear to tread, doing the works of the Lord. What did they say about the early disciples? That they were ignorant and unlearned men was the general consensus - and who is afraid of ignorant and unlearned men? They were! And they tried to stone them and kill them to get rid of them, because they were turning the world upside down. They were the lever that God used on the whole world.

Lord, we call upon our hearts to be dedicated to become that purified people You want us to be, - not out of our own ability, but because we are going to draw, under your grace, as we have never drawn before, to put on the righteousness of God as we have never dared to appropriate before. We are going to throw aside our submitting to evil, our prior concepts of your Word, our hang-ups and our problems and inadequacies, and draw upon the unlimited provisioning of God, the excellencies of Your power and authority. O Father, by the grace of God, this is not idle boasting. We know we are speaking the way it must be, by the path in which You have chosen for it to be fulfilled. By the grace of God, we <u>rise up</u> to worship You with all our heart and soul and mind and strength. - To love you. Amen.